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### UM hires first Craighead chair in wildlife biology

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Aug. 17, 2007

**Contact:** Charlie Janson, associate dean, UM Division of Biological Sciences, 406-243-5122.

### **UM HIRES FIRST CRAIGHEAD CHAIR IN WILDLIFE BIOLOGY**

#### **MISSOULA –**

Joel Berger, a renowned wildlife and conservation biologist, has been hired as the first John J. Craighead Endowed Professor in Wildlife Biology at The University of Montana.

The professorship was a fundraising priority of the University's "Invest in Discovery" campaign. John Craighead worked at UM for 25 years, leading the Montana Wildlife Research Unit and doing groundbreaking research on grizzlies. He also helped pioneer the use of radio collars to study wildlife.

Berger comes to UM after a long career at the University of Nevada, Reno. He then worked seven years at the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York, where he was senior scientist for North American programs.

Berger is author of more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and five books, including the upcoming "Living With Fear -- Prey, Predators, and Culture in Wild Animals" from the University of Chicago Press.

He has initiated and collaborated with projects on the ecology of large mammals all over the world -- most recently in Mongolia, Namibia and Argentina. He also has worked on long-term projects in the Rocky Mountains, Badlands and Great Basin of the North American

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West.

In addition, Berger is a present or past member of numerous conservation-related boards and scientific panels.

“His research projects will enrich and extend ongoing studies at UM concerning Rocky Mountain wildlife ecology and conservation in increasingly human-dominated habitats,” said Charlie Janson, associate dean of UM’s Division of Biological Sciences. “Berger’s presence also will enhance international collaboration and educational exchange in the Division of Biological Sciences and Wildlife Biology Program.”

The John J. Craighead Chair Endowment was made possible through the generous support of many donors, with leadership gifts from Ripley S. Comegys, John and Julie Dixon, the Charles Engelhard Foundation, the Richard K. Mellon Foundation, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, Rick and Penney Oncken, Bonnie Miller Snavelly and the WSB Partnership.

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